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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

00750435AA

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Typed or printed name _____

Application Number

09/773,337

Filed

1/31/01

First Named Inventor

A. Singhani, et al.

Art Unit

2136

Examiner

Hoffman, B.

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)☒ attorney or agent of record.
Registration number 32,635☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

Signature

Michael E. Whitham

Typed or printed name

703/787-9400

Telephone number

Nov. 18, 2005

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.
Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.☒ *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Anil K. Singhani et al.

Confirmation No. 5977

Serial No. 09/773,337

Group Art Unit 2136

Filed January 31, 2001

Examiner Brandon S. Hoffman

For SUPPLIER PORTAL FOR GLOBAL PROCUREMENT E-BUSINESS
APPLICATIONS

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

ATTACHMENT TO PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Sir:

This Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review is being concurrently filed in the USPTO with a Notice of Appeal. If any additional fees are required to satisfy the fees due for the Notice of Appeal or to gain entry and consideration of this Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Attorney's Deposit Account 09-0458 (IBM Fishkill).

No amendments are submitted herewith, and the amendment filed October 13, 2005 does not need to be entered in the application for purposes of appeal as it merely rewrites claim 2 into independent format.

The Invention

The claimed invention involves a system and process for managing business, technical and operational data using a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet. A general discussion of the operations of the system and process is presented in the amendment filed October 13, 2005 beginning on page 6 under the heading "The Claimed Invention". In operation, a user uses a "supplier portal" where there is automatically built up "a customized home page for the guest" which includes "links to all applications for which the guest is approved". The "supplier portal home page displays a list of links to all

of the applications for which the guest has been registered and authorized". Further, the system and process provides a centralized mechanism to obtain user-level registration for global procurement applications available under the portal, and for authorization to use restricted applications available on the supplier portal. Figure 1 of the application shows a process for creating a company profile, registering and authorizing an application for use. As explained at page 11, at line 9 et seq., and with reference to Figure 4, it can be seen that guests only need to provide their userid/password once during their entire session and they can access several different applications. Figure 5 of the application shows the process for gaining authorizations when a guest of the portal needs to access global procurement applications which are restricted.

The approval cycles, and various embodiments thereof, are discussed in detail in the amendment filed October 13, 2005 at pages 7 and 8. As previously explained on these pages, the approval cycles may be customizable for each application (e.g., one application may require a three step approval, while another may require a single step approval), may be definable for a section of an application (e.g., users from one geographical area may be required to undergo a three step approval process while those in other areas would not), or may utilize unique, application specific, registration fields (e.g., identification of a language and/or a role the user expects to perform in the application), etc.

The requirements of claims 1 and 7 are discussed in detail in the amendment filed October 13, 2005, beginning in the middle of page 9. As explained on page 10 of the amendment of October 13, 2005, claims 1 and 7 require

determining whether APPLICATIONS have been authorized for a registered guest; and

accessing information to build a customized home page for the guest, THIS HOME PAGE BEING MODIFIED AND UPDATED AS THE GUEST'S REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO APPLICATIONS GETS APPROVED; and

an e-mail for sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving responses from the application administrator.

The requirements of claim 2 are discussed in detail on page 12 of the amendment filed October 13, 2005, beginning at the top of the page. Claim 2

requires

defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get authorized to access an APPLICATION;

logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password ONCE for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm; and

invoking by a logged in guest ANY of their approved APPLICATIONS by simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized home page.

The requirements of claim 3-6 are discussed in detail on page 13 of the amendment filed October 13, 2005, beginning in the middle of the page. Claim 3 requires that the approval cycles are customizable. Claim 4 requires that approval cycles are defined for a section of an application. Claim 5 requires application specific registration fields. Claim 6 requires features for bookmarking applications for later access.

Errors and Omissions

As discussed in detail in the amendment filed October 13, 2005, neither reference relied upon by the Examiner shows or suggests the features which are highlighted and underlined above (see pages 9-14 of the amendment). As such no combination of Starr and Zey would make any of the claims obvious.

The principal reference to Starr is not related to and does not show a portal which allows a user to selectively access different applications. Rather, Starr is focused on permitting the user to engage in various financial transactions involving his own accounts. In Starr, because there are no separate APPLICATIONS, there is never a need to hold data required for registering for different applications such that it can be used again when accessing a different application (i.e., a different application is never accessed). Zey does not provide this feature either (and is not relied on by the Examiner as providing this feature)

The principal reference to Starr is not related to and does not show a portal which builds a customized home page for a guest which includes links to various applications that the guest is registered for. In Starr, the user can upload

information data from an application or export data for use by an application (e.g., accounting data used by Quicken or an other application). But is not the same as or similar to building up and/or modifying a page as the guest requests access to applications. Zey does not provide this feature either (and is not relied on by the Examiner as providing this feature).

Further, the principal reference to Starr does not show or suggest sending an e-mail to an application administrator or receiving a response. Zey merely shows an e-mail being used to notify approval or disapproval, but does not teach or suggest forwarding a request for approval to an approver.

With particular respect to **claim 2**, because Starr and Zey are unrelated to a supplier portal for applications, neither reference shows or suggests

logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password ONCE for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm;

In Starr, you remain in the same financial application, and there never would be a requirement for using the userid/password for more than one application. In sharp contrast, Starr only deals with logging on to an application for secure transactions. Zey does not make up for the deficiencies of Starr.

With particular respect to **claims 3-6**, because Starr and Zer are unrelated to a supplier portal for applications, neither reference shows or suggests

anything with respect to approval cycles for different applications (see claims 3 and 4),

use of different registration fields that are unique to different applications (see claim 5), or

use of bookmarks to access different applications (see claim 6).

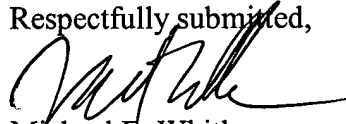
Conclusion

Since there are features in each of the claims which are absent from both references relied upon, no combination of the references would provide the recited features. Furthermore, since the cited references are completely unrelated to the supplier portal and methodology contemplated by the present application, there is

no motivation to combine them in the manner proposed.

In view of the above, it is requested that the position of the Examiner be reviewed, that the rejections be withdrawn, and that the application be awarded a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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